

80/269861

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi Usui et al. Confirmation No.:
Serial No. :
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PCT No. : PCT/JP2004/008314
IFD : June 14, 2004
TC/A.U. :
Examiner :

Docket No. : 06-179
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's continued duty of disclosure, the following documents are brought to the Examiner's attention:

- (1) JP Patent No. 8-066023;
- (2) JP Patent No. 11-313479;
- (3) JP Patent No. 9-322532; and
- (4) JP Patent No. 6-343262

A listing on Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior

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art with respect to the present invention.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi Usui et al.

By

Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No.: 28,395
Tel: (203) 777-6628
Fax: (203) 865-0297

Date: February 27, 2006

I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on February 27, 2006.

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Complete if Known

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Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Hiroshi Usui et al

Attorney Docket Number 06-179

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ ~Number ⁴ ~Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		T ⁶
		JP 8-066023	03-08-1996	Shimada et al.	
		JP 11-313479	11-09-1999	Yasuzawa	
		JP 9-322532	12-12-1997	Suzuki et al.	
		JP 6-343262	12-13-1994	Tanaka et al.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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